

Mono County Local Transportation Commission

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Minutes Monday, April 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m. Town / County Conference Room Mammoth Lakes, CA

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present

Bill Reid, Vice Chair
Hap Hazard, Supervisor
Wendy Sugimura, Town Council
Tom Farnetti, Supervisor

Caltrans

Brad Mettam
Forest Becket
Tom Meyers
Ben Downard

ESTA

John Helm, Executive Director
Jill Batchelder

Staff Present

Scott Burns, Director
Ray Jarvis, Co-Director
Gerry LeFrancois, Planner, Mono County
Peter Bernasconi, TOML
Gwen Plummer, Planner, Mono County
Jennifer Hansen, Secretary
Kelly Garcia, Public Works, Mono County

Other

Courtney Weiche, Planner, Mono County
Sandy Hogan, TOML Mobility Commission
Lynda Wu, TOML Resident

Agenda items may not have been taken in order.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Reid at 9:06 a.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Sugimura.

1) PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 10th, 2008

- a) Commissioner Hazard motioned to approve the March 10th minutes. Seconded by Vice Chairman Reid. Abstained by Commissioner Sugimura and Commissioner Farnetti. Passed 2-0. Those in favor: Hazard and Reid.

3) ADMINISTRATION

a) Public Hearing: Unmet Needs

Action: Opened a public hearing to receive testimony concerning the unmet transit needs within Mono County that might be reasonable to meet by establishing or contracting for new public

transportation or specialized services or by expanding existing services.

Gwen Plummer mentioned before the hearing began that notices have been posted in the newspaper and flyers have been handed out throughout all Mono County communities in both English and Spanish.

Public Hearing: 9:09 a.m.

There was a social services hearing held on April 4th with a very minuscule turnout. The unmet needs discussed included more of an interest from Mammoth parents for the Inyo Mono Association for the Handicapped (IMAH). Right now, they have a visually impaired client who lives in June Lake. He attends IMAH two days a week with an aide. Another client who lives in Mammoth takes ESTA to and from Bishop. IMAH drives approximately 610 miles daily to provide transportation to and from our program for clients. They also discussed a daily need for a commuter route from Walker to Bridgeport then connect commuter route from Walker to Bridgeport, to Lee Vining, June Lake, Mammoth, and Bishop; start a pickup in Mono City for the Mountain Express; daily transit from the Tri-Valley area to Mammoth Lakes, Reno, and Bishop for doctor and shopping and connections to Southern California; Sunday Benton to Bishop route for social service needs (church). It was decided that these needs are not reasonable to meet at this time. There were no other unmet needs discussed during the hearing. The hearing was closed at 9:13 a.m. with no further action taken.

A resolution will be passed at the May meeting showing there are no unmet needs at this time.

b) Local Transportation Fund Apportionment/Allocation Amendment

Action: Adoption of Resolutions 2007-08(A) and 2007-09(A) amending the Local Transportation Fund apportionment for FY 2007/2008.

Scott Burns discussed the revised Local Transportation Fund (LTF) estimate for the current fiscal year which reflects a \$70,000 reduction from the original estimate provided by the County Auditor. The Auditor has also issued an estimate for next fiscal year that is \$110,000 less than this year's estimate. Resolutions 2007-08(A) and 2007-09(A) reflect a reduction of \$41,337 of the Town of Mammoth Lakes' apportionment for transit system operations and a reduction of \$28,663 of Mono County's apportionment for transit operation. A handout was provided to the commissioners detailing revenue history illustrating the LTF growth in recent years compared to Auditor's estimates, and month-by-month trends. The LTC independent auditor advised staff to revise the original allocation and apportionment resolutions to reflect the new estimate. Commissioner Farnetti moved to approve the amendment of resolutions 2007-08(A) and 2007-09(A) reallocating and reapportioning the FY 07/08 LTF. Seconded by Commissioner Sugimura. Passed 4-0. Those in favor: Farnetti, Sugimura, Reid, Hazard.

c) Overall Work Program Draft FY 2008/2009

Action: Informational. Discussed FY 2008/2009 Draft of the Overall Work Program.

The OWP is funded through Rural Planning Assistance (RPA) funds and Planning, Programming and Monitoring (PPM) funds. Subject to state budget approval, RPA funding for FY 08/09 is \$216,000 and PPM funding is \$400,000 and is subject to an allocation of the California Transportation Commission (CTC). The total OWP budget for FY 08/09 is \$616,000. For the May meeting, a complete draft of the OWP with work elements will be provided to the commission. Adoption of the FY 08/09 OWP is scheduled for June. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

4) TRANSIT

a) Update on transit activities in Mono County

Action: Informational. Received an update on information related to transit activities in Mono County including an update on the progress of the Short Term Transit Plan and the Coordinated Transit Plan.

John Helm, new Executive Director for ESTA, was introduced to the commission. He started in

this position on April 1st and looks forward to working with the commission. Jill Batchelder reported that Transit Resource Center (TRC), the consultant group for the Short Range Transit Plan, will be in the area the week of May 26th to continue gathering information on the SRTP. TRC will be conducting a workshop for the ESTA Board on May 29th from 10:00am – 2:00pm in Bishop. The SRTP is scheduled for completion in September.

Vice Chairman Reid mentioned that two of the buses parked in the Walker Community Center parking lot have been removed – thank you. The other bus is down and inoperable but still needs to be moved from the parking lot. Kelly Garcia mentioned that it is possible to include the bus in the next county surplus sale within the next few months. Public Works will look into moving the bus from the parking lot. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

5) CALTRANS

a) Future Mono County MOU Projects

Action: Informational. Received information regarding the options of possible replacement projects for the Highpoint project.

This item is an exploration of possible replacement projects for Highpoint. In order to better prepare for the possibility of Highpoint not going forward as a Mono County MOU project, other options need to be identified as appropriate replacement candidates. Brad Mettam provided a handout to the commission outlying other possible projects.

Vice Chairman Reid brought up the possibility of the Lee Vining Streetscape project as a replacement MOU project. The Mono Basin RPAC also brought this up as a possibility. Brad Mettam mentioned that this project has been funded as a TE project. Was the MOU between the county and Caltrans ever received as the money is not programmed for construction? Gwen Plummer stated that the MOU was sent to Caltrans and the signature from Caltrans is pending so it can be given to Gerry to program the money and go before the CTC. This would be an amendment to the 2008 STIP but Gerry needs to hear from Public Works on the engineering for the project costs. Brad mentioned he will find out the status of the MOU. The commissioners would like to see this move forward.

Commissioner Hazard mentioned the Rock Creek Bridge project and mentioned it is not separate from the current STIP. The funding is coming from SHOPP and is shown for FY 08/09. Brad Mettam mentioned that a structure over Rock Creek probably won't be constructed as funding isn't included in the SHOPP but something needs to be considered for pedestrians. Commissioner Hazard mentioned that the Paradise/Wheeler Crest RPAC posed concern on this project for the upper end of the project. Brad mentioned that Caltrans isn't sure what the communities want and have been receiving mixed messages but intersection improvements do need to be addressed.

Brad mentioned the list of projects provided are good to consider so they can be more prepared if Highpoint is not considered. Commissioner Sugimura asked if any of the projects presented on the list posed a safety threat. No, but Lemus Curve and Point Ranch do have accident history. Vice Chairman Reid wanted to know if the \$44M for Highpoint had been allocated. No, the environmental has been done but the design effort has been put on hold. This project is currently going through the initiation process and the funding for this process comes from a different fund than the \$44M. Commissioner Farnetti feels that it is too premature to consider other projects until the commission knows if Highpoint will be considered. The commissioners would like a report on the safety issues for all projects to see which ones should be considered over another. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

b) Sonora Wildlife Crossing Project Overview and Update

Action: Informational. Received an overview and update of the Sonora Wildlife Crossing project.

Tom Meyers gave an update on the project. The project is to span from Little Walker up to Lemus Curve (6 miles). The project is set to be complete in 2012. The project proposes two under crossings along with wildlife mesh fencing along the shoulder around eight feet high. The purpose of the fence is due for the high deer mortality rate. If the fencing proves to be successful in this area, other fences will go up in other areas. Halleluiah Junction has a similar fence and it has produced a 95% reduction in the deer mortality rate in that area. This project should not affect the migration pattern if the project is designed properly. At this juncture, there are no plans for signage to let motor travelers know what the fence is for. Once the project is started, there will be traffic control during construction for the under crossings; the fence is required to be built together (both sides of the road) with no traffic restrictions. The project is currently in the environmental stages and Caltrans is working on different placements for the fence as it is right up to the graded shoulder and Caltrans recovery zone and can pose potential problems for travelers/motorcycles. Scott mentioned this is designated scenic highway so there will be further setbacks for the fence due to the designation. This was an informational presentation that is also to be given to the Collaborative Planning Team. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

c) **Update on activities in Mono County**

Action: Informational. Received an update on information from National, State, and Local resources that are related to activities in Mono County.

Brad Mettam introduced Ben Downard. Brad presented the commission with a handout/chart on strategizing money to fund STIP projects. He mentioned that a draft of the Public Participation Plan of the California Transportation Plan is available. He also mentioned that the Inyo-Kern 4-lane project is in the environmental process. The public is questioning the stretch of road being constructed; an alternative to the current stretch would be the lanes west of the existing lanes. Mono LTC is a funding partner for this project. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

6) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM & PLAN

a) **2008 STIP/RTIP**

Action: Informational. Received a verbal update from staff on the Southern State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) hearing and considered a reprioritized project list for the 2008 RTIP with a reduced funding amount.

Gerry Le Francois mentioned that Supervisor Bauer, Caltrans and himself went to the south CTC hearing in March. Our RTIP has a lot of local projects and not a lot on the state highway system. On Friday, May 9th, the CTC will be contacting Gerry on their recommendations for the projects we have submitted. Once the recommendations come forward, they will be presented separately to the Mammoth Lakes Town Council and the Mono County Board of Supervisors for direction. A further discussion and revised recommendation will be made at the May 19th LTC meeting. Brad Mettam mentioned that he is nervous that we have not heard anything on the projects as we usually have heard from the CTC. He suggests we have a game plan ready if any adjustments need to be addressed. The final adoption for the RTIP is on May 28th and 29th in San Diego. Staff will need to be present to support/argue our projects to the CTC. No commissioner action required for this agenda item.

7) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a) **Assembly Bill 2295 Arambula: Funding of Local Road Rehabilitation in the STIP/RTIP**
– Assembly Bill information provided in packet.

8) SCHEDULE SPECIAL MEETING – May 19th, 2008

9) ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. by Vice Chairman Reid.